FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 APRIL 1985

Sudan

Commenting on the new government, the clandestine Sudanese People's Liberation Army radio said "little" has changed but while they accept Daf'allah as a "new respected and patriotic citizen," they do not accept the idea that he is under "orders of the military." In another development, Libya and Sudan signed a bilateral agreement restoring relations, Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio stated.

Lebanon

Phalangist Lebanese Forces completed their withdrawal from Sidon despite Palestinian attempts to "obstruct" them, according to a Lebanese Forces statement carried by Voice of Lebanon radio. As for Israeli forces, Beirut radio said IDF troop withdrawals began in both the Jazzin and Masgharah areas on 24 April.

Syria

President Hafiz al-Asad reaffirmed Syria's "principled stand" on the question of peace in the region during his 23 April talks with visiting U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, Damascus television reported. Meanwhile, Syria's *AL-THAWRAH* lambasted U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' recent statement calling on Arab regimes to negotiate directly with Israel, asserting that this is an attempt to push the Arabs toward "treason and capitulation" and warning that the United States will not be able to protect its "agent" regimes, according to Damascus radio.

Jordan

King Husayn received Omani Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id who began a 5-day official visit on 23 April, Amman radio reported.

The two leaders held talks on the Palestine question, the Iran-Iraq war, and bilateral relations, according to a Royal Court spokesman cited by the radio.

Iran

The Hezbollahis were "quite right" to demonstrate against those wearing "strange clothes" that reflect Western cultural domination but there should be no further demonstrations of this type because the government will henceforth take action against those guilty of "immorality" and "indecency," President 'Ali Khamene'i stated in an interview broadcast by Tehran radio.

While acknowledging that the Hezbollahis have committed "certain excesses," Khamene'i blamed such deeds on "hostile minigroups" which have infiltrated the Hezbollah.

Pakistan-DRA

Pakistan rejected the DRA's accusation that a Pakistani aircraft violated Afghan airspace 17 April, Karachi radio reported.

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Grand Tribal Assembly Opens 23 April in Kabul

BAKHTAR on Opening

LD240650 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0426 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] Kabul, April 23, OANA-BAKHTAR — Loya Jirga (Grand Assembly) of the people of Afghanistan was opened here today. In this Loya Jirga 1,796 representatives from all over the country who have been elected by local jirgas in the traditional free and democratic atmosphere are participating.

The jirga was attended by the Politburo members of the Central Committee of the PDPA, members of the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council and members of the Council of Ministers of the DRA, representatives of the social organizations and ambassadors of the friendly countries to the DRA are participating as well.

Representatives of all national, democratic, patriotic and progressive strata and classes belonging to all nationalities and tribes of the country (are) also participating at the jirga.

In his inaugural speech, Babrak Karmal described the significance of the Loya Jirga as a collective decision-making body for the solution of pressing national and historical tasks and as one of the lasting traditions of the Afghan people.

The present Loya Jirga, which is being held for the first time after the victory of the April Revolution (1978) on the basis of the favourite national traditions and customs has before it great vital and significant tasks, Babrak Karmal added.

He stressed that the Loya Jirga of the representatives of the Afghan people is being convened to provide answers to domestic and foreign issues facing the country.

The members of the presidium, credential commission and Secretariat of Loya Jirga of the DRA were unanimously elected.

Abdul Rahim Hatef, a prominent social figure, former deputy at Wolosi Jirga, (parliament) and a leading member of National Fatherland Front of the DRA, was elected as president of Loya Jirga. The report of the credential commission was unanimously approved.

Kohat Khan Bridwall representative of Nangarhar Province, Muhammed Amin, representative of Jowzjan Province and others made speeches in today's session. The session of the Loya Jirga will continue tomorrow as well.

Karmal Addresses Assembly

LD240702 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0432 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] Kabul, April 23, BAKHTAR — "The convocation of present Loya Jirga (Grand Assembly) is an invitation to the whole people of the country to take part in the defence of the homeland, the revolution and the ensuring of conditions for peaceful and constructive work for blossoming of the country, the well-being and prosperity of the present and coming generations."

This was stated by Babrak Karmal while delivering his main speech at Loya Jirga here today.

In this Loya Jirga 1796 representatives from all over the country who have been elected by local jirgas in the traditional free and democratic atmosphere and 200 guests are participating.

Having mentioned that jirga is a collective decision-making body for the solution of the pressing national and historical tasks was and is one of the lasting traditions of the Afghan people, Babrak Karmal said:

"This undeclared war imposed by imperialism and its allies on us, has posed a question of life and death, the question of national independence of our country and the question of the Afghan peoples being free or enslaved."

It is the national-historical duty of this Loya Jirga to strongly, clearly and decisively provide an Afghan-like, revolutionary and progressive answer, Babrak Karmal said.

The formation of the PDPA he went on to say, constitutes one of the most important turning points in the history of the revolutionary movement of Afghanistan, the 20th founding anniversary of which was gloriously marked by the working people of our country some time ago.

Dwelling on the achievements of the April Revolution, Babrak Karmal said that the revolution as being the lawful answer to the increasing historical dissatisfaction of the people with the arbitrariness and reactionary policies of the anti-people's regime was accomplished by the broadest strata and classes of the working people of the society under the leadership of the PDPA.

The greatest achievement of the national democratic April Revolution, the president of the Revolutionary Council noted is the establishment of the new and revolutionary power of the working people, from which emerged the new political system in the country and the PDPA as the leading, guiding and organising force of the Afghan formed its core. [passage indistinct]

The achievements and the success of the revolution would have been much greater Babrak Karmal said, had the undeclared war of imperialism, hegemonism and reaction against the DRA not continued. The enemies of the revolutionary Afghanistan are expanding the dimensions of their interference in the internal affairs of the country. This is the main obstacle on the part of the peaceful development of the revolution and speedier realisation of economic and social changes in the interest of the people.

General secretary of the PDPA CC pointed out that the real instigator of the undeclared war against Afghanistan is the criminal US imperialism. In the past few years US imperialism and its allies have spent over one billion dollars on their subversive anti-Afghan activities.

Pakistan has become the springboard of aggression and interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

Nothing can be more shameful than claiming that the Afghan counter-revolutionary bands receive arms for the "defence of

Islam" and freedom from the enemies of revolution and Islam. It is only the April Revolution which opened the real path for freedom and national independence in the country and for the first time provided the people of Afghanistan the opportunity to take their destiny in their own hands, and not to obey a bunch of parasitic exploiters, any more. The total amount of the aid allocated to the construction of mosques and places of worship and assistance provided to the clergy and religious institutions during the years of the revolution amounts to 88 million afghanis, which is more than the total amount spent for the purpose during fifty years of the rule of reactionary regimes in the past.

The defence of the revolution is the national and patriotic duty of every true son of the homeland, Babrak Karmal stressed. "It is only by effective defence of the revolution and its achievements that we can ensure nation-wide peace and foil the sinister deeds of the enemies in the same way that our free-born and brave forefathers did."

In the present conditions, the ensuring of security of the country constitutes fundamental goal of the party and state of the DRA. On the basis of the supreme interests of the state power of the DRA and the national sovereignty of the country, the effective defence of the borders of DRA with Pakistan and Iran has come to occupy first place among our current duties.

The Armed Forces and the illustrious, courageous and militant Pashtun tribes who throughout the history have defended the borders of the country in the east and south against colonialists and occupations as their honour and dignity have the responsibility of the defence of the borders as their national-historic, pressing and immutable obligation the speaker said.

The April Revolution is an inseparable part of the world revolutionary process and is in need of favourable international conditions, that is a durable peace in the world and in the region, in order to achieve its objectives. The DRA is consistently taking measures for defending and consolidating peace. We wholly support the Soviet peace initiatives, reflected in the official documents of the CPSU CC and the Soviet state as well as in the recent speeches and interviews of Comrade Gorbachev, general secretary of CC CPSU, which are directed at the preservation of peace, prevention of arms race, deescalation of international tension and observance of the principles of peaceful co-existence.

The consolidation, development and expansion of friendly and fraternal relations and mutual traditional cooperation with the Soviet Union in various political, economic, cultural and technical fields are the guarantor of the consolidation of national independence, growth of national economy, social progress and consolidation of the international positions of the country and help promote good-neighbourliness.

Today the international position of Afghanistan is stronger and more prestigious than any other time. The unshakable internationalistic relations between Afghanistan, the Soviet Union, other socialist countries, international working class, national liberation movements, progressive regimes and progressive political parties and organizations all over the world are satisfactorily expanding, Babrak Karmal concluded.

Participation Outlined

LD240652 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] Kabul, April 23, OANA-BAKHTAR — The present traditional Loya Jirga (Grand Assembly) has been convened to ensure widest participation of the representatives of the [word indistinct] of Afghanistan, said the report of the credential commission of the Loya Jirga of the DRA opened here today.

The election of the representatives in the provincial jirgas of 29 provinces, Kabul city and Khowst Division has taken place on the basis of the national and historical traditions of the people in a [word indistinct] and democratic manner in accordance with Islamic tenets, the report emphasised.

Total of 1796 delegates were elected throughout Afghanistan to take part in the Loya Jirga and have obtained their official credentials. The credentials commission of the Loya Jirga, after making an assessment of the credentials of all the elected representatives considers them as valid, the report added.

The best representatives of workers, peasants, craftsmen and other working people, patriotic clergymen, intellectuals, elders and leaders of tribes, prominent figures from among the people from all over the country have been elected as representatives for this Loya Jirga.

Of them 11.6 percent are workers, 26 percent peasants, 23 percent intellectuals including scholars, teachers, university professors, physicians, engineers, and civil servants, 3 percent national bourgeoisie and tradesmen, 11 percent religious scholars and preachers, 25.4 percent elders and leaders of tribes and ethnic groups and social figures of the country.

The party and state leadership are also taking part in the work of the Loya Jirga. Among the total number of the deputies 21 percent are fullfledged and probationary members of the PDPA, the report added.

In the Loya Jirga 247 persons from among the representatives of nomads, elders and members of the permanent consultative jirgas of frontier tribes have directly participated, included also are 38 leaders and commanders of tribal regiments, militia and [word indistinct] defenders of revolution and leaders of the armed groups who have surrendered to the state and 43 persons from among the retired high-ranking civil and military officials judges and mayors, 37 persons from among the former senators and members of the Wolosi Jirga (People's Assembly).

There are 60 women deputies in the Loya Jirga who come from among workers, intellectuals and civil servants and among them are also heads and members of the groups of defenders of revolution and tribal units.

The PDPA and the state of the DRA is pursuing the policy of friendship and fraternal solidarity between all nationalities, tribes and ethnic groups residing in Afghanistan, the manifestation of this unity and friendship of peoples is the participation of the representatives of all nationalities, tribes and ethnic groups of the country including Pashtuns and their numerous tribes, the Tajiks, the Uzbeks, the Hazaras, the Turkmen, the Baluchs, the

Nuristanis, the Pauhaes, and other nationalities, tribes and social minorities residing in the country, the report said.

The deputies to the Loya Jirga generally possess necessary experience of the social political life of the country. Most of the deputies are more than fifty years of age.

Thirty seven percent of the representatives are up-to 40 years old, 46.2 percent are between 41-60 years old and 16.8 percent of the representatives are over 60 years old.

KYODO: Violence Precedes Assembly

OW240153 Tokyo KYODO in English 0123 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] Islambad, April 23 KYODO — An Afghan aircraft carrying delegates from north-western Badakhshan Province to Kabul to attend the Loya Jirga (Grand Assembly) being held in Kabul Tuesday was shot down by the Afghan resistance last week, Western diplomatic sources here said.

Nine persons were reported to have died in the incident, which took place in Bagram area north of Kabul on April 16.

The guerrillas are said to have followed the attack with a rocket strike at the Bagram airbase the following day, leading to Soviet reprisal air raids against nearby villages.

Other incidents in the run-up to the jirga are said to have caused the deaths of some 300 civilians at Madian Shehr and 70 in the Paghman area, both in Wardak Province, according to the diplomats.

The Western diplomats dismissed the Loya Jirga as a "charade aimed at putting the people's stamp of approval" on the Kabul regime and added that in no way did it reflect the feelings of the Afghan people.

Heavy security has been mounted in Kabul for the jirga and the seventh anniversary celebrations of the communist takeover of Afghanistan, which fall on Saturday (April 27), said the diplomats, who did not want to be identified.

Apart from increased Soviet patrols in the streets, Afghan secret service personel have reportedly been brought from other cities to Kabul to beef up security.

The step-up in security is cited by the diplomats as the likely cause of the fall in resistance activity in recent weeks. But Peshawar-based guerrilla groups yesterday warned would-be participants in the jirga to stay away as all those attending it would be put on their hit-list.

The diplomats speculated that the purpose of the jirga could be to prepare the Afghan people for a major push by the Soviets against the resistance or to bring about a cosmetic change in the political setup by installing Babrak Karmal as president of the tribal assembly to enchance his legitimacy.

Voice of Afghanistan Reports Mujahidin Successes

LD232241 (Clandestine) Voice of Afghanistan in Dari 1130 GMT 21 Apr 85

[Text] Kabul — Our correspondent reports from Kabul that recently huge explosions shook the city (?between) 0830-1100. The explosions took place in various parts of the city and caused irreparable loss of life and property to the enemy [word indistinct]. Our correspondent writes that 3 days after this incident another explosion took place in (Sar-e Naw) at 1330 and another powerful bomb went off in Micro Rayon market at 1730 on the same day, which according to a witness killed 3 Soviets instantly and injured 25 Soviets and their servants. The injured were immediately transferred to a hospital by ambulance.

Our correspondent adds that similarly, as a result of an exploding bomb which was planted in a shop near Pamir Hotel frequently used by Soviets, three Soviet men and four women were killed and wounded, and severe damage was caused to shops used by Soviets.

Paktika — Our correspondent reports from (Kawawaz) region, Paktika Province, that a convoy of enemy forces was attacked by the fighters of Islam which resulted in two tanks and one (?vehicle) being destroyed and scores of Soviet evils and their servants being killed.

Parwan — It has been reported from Parwan Province that the Soviet and servant forces were attacked by the self-sacrificing forces of Islam in (Tawaf) village, Kapisa Province, as a result of which three enemy tanks and five transport vehicles were set on fire and a large number of evil Soviets and their obedient servants were killed.

Paktia — According to a report from Paktia Province, the forces of Islam attacked the positions of Soviet and servant forces in (?Pirabagh) region. During this attack, using heavy weapons, in addition to destroying the enemy positions, scores of the invading Red Guard and the servant forces were killed, and three traitor officers and two soldiers were taken prisoner.

Commentary on U.S. Senator's 'Anti-Afghan' Bill

LD220641 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 22 Apr 85

[Text] Kabul, April 21 BAKHTAR — A political observer of BAKHTAR writes:

It has been reported from Washington that Senator Gordon Humphrey (Republican) has introduced a bill in the Senate providing for the abolition of Afghanistan's most-favoured-nation status.

It is known that Senator Humphrey heads the anti-Afghan lobby in the U.S. Congress and the biparty group which was formed to control U.S. "secret" aid to the Afghan counter-revolutionary gangs.

The fact that CIA "secret" aid to the Afghan bandits has developed into the biggest covert operation of the U.S. since the Vietnam war is admitted even by the U.S. press itself, and much

credit for this should be given to Gordon Humphrey. He has even allowed himself to chide the CIA for this insufficient activity in mounting subversive and terrorist operations in Afghanistan.

This time, though, the senator has turned his attention to trade. Once we a.e on the subject, the senator may be reminded that the meagre volume of Afghan-American trade is currently estimated at less than 11 million dollars a year. In practice this means that a few wealthy Americans are occasionally buying Afghan carpets, karakul pelts and lazulite jewelry.

At the same time, the allocations by the U.S. and its allies on the undeclared war against the Afghan people are nearly 60 times larger than the annual volume of this trade. In 1985, the CIA alone has allocated 280 million dollars to finance the policy of state-backed terrorism against Afghanistan.

Along with urging the Senate to abolish the most-favoured-nation status for Afghanistan, Senator Humphrey remains one of the most ardent proponents of such a status for Afghanistan as regards the export of counter-revolution.

Via the territory of Pakistan pours a continuous flow of the latest American weaponry for the counter-revolutionary gangs: rockets, mines, recoilless rifles and so on. These weapons have already claimed the lives of thousands of totally innocent people. Considerable funds are being spent on psychological warfare against Afghanistan and on the continuous intensification of the anti-Afghan campaign.

By introducing his "tough" bill, Senator Humphrey will certainly win the notoriety of a death merchant instead of the reputation of a wise legislator.

Gandhi Urged To Halt Tamil Exodus From Sri Lanka

BK231639 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Text] In New Delhi today, a delegation of several political parties led by the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr M.G. Ramachandran, called on the prime minister and presented a memorandum to him on the issue of Tamils in Sri Lanka. The delegation informed the prime minister of the position relating to the (?sudden) and fresh exodus of the refugees from Sri Lanka from February this year. The delegation requested him to take emergency action to stop further exodus and get the refugees, who have already arrived in India, taken back to their country.

The delegation pressed for the withdrawal of the Army from the Tamil areas in Sri Lanka, stoppage of acquisition of these areas by Sinhalese, and withdrawal of many curbs imposed on the fishermen of Sri Lanka.

The delegation requested that the Sri Lanka Government should find a viable solution and ensure the safety and the legitimate rights of the Tamils as full and equal citizens of that country.

The delegation consisted of leaders of AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam], Congress-I, CPI, CPI-M, Gandhi-Kamaraj National Congress, Indian Union Muslim League, Republican Party of India, and All India Forward Bloc.

After the meeting, a spokesman of the delegation told newsmen that they had a free and frank discussion with the prime minister. He said the chairman of the policy planning committee in the External Affairs Ministry, Mr G. Parthasarathy, also attended the meeting.

There will be a discussion on the situation in Sri Lanka in the Lok Sabha next Monday. This was announced by the minister of state for parliamentary affairs, Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad, in the house today.

President To Visit Zimbabwe, Zambia From 30 Apr

BK231649 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Text] The president, Giani Zail Singh, will pay state visits to Zimbabwe and Zambia from the 30th of this month to 8 May. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that the president will first visit Zimbabwe and will spend 4 days there. He will go to Zambia on 4 May.

The minister of state for tourism and civil aviation, Mr Ashok Gehlot, will accompany the president.

Khurshid Alam Khan To Attend Bandung Celebrations

BK230520 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Excerpt] The 30th anniversary celebrations of Bandung Conference begin in Indonesia tomorrow. Leaders of various Afro-Asian countries have arrived in Bandung to participate in the celebrations. The Indian delegation is led by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Khurshid Alam Khan. He is carrying a message for the conference from the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, who is also the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement.

Afghanistan's Dost Leaves After Nonaligned Forum

BK230522 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Text] The Afghanistan foreign minister, Shah Muhammad Dost, left New Delhi this morning after attending the Nonaligned Coordinating Bureau meeting which concluded on Sunday. Talking to the All India Radio correspondent, Ratan Salve, at the airport he said that he had a useful exchange of views with the Indian leaders.

Violence Continues in Gujarat, Death Toll Rises

Chavan Appeals for Peace

BK231303 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Excerpts] In the Lok Sabha today, the home minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, appealed to all sections of the house and the press to cooperate in the task of getting rid of violence and restoring law and order in Ahmedabad and other parts of Gujarat. Making a statement, he said he was sure the house will join him in condemning the action of a mob in Ahmedabad yesterday which resulted in the death of a head constable and serious injury to a homeguard.

Mr Chavan clarified that the Army had been called in to assist civil authorities. He said information given out by a certain news agency that the Ahmedabad city was handed over to the Army is completely incorrect. Mr Chavan said the death of head constable compounded by adverse reporting in the press had deeply hurt the feelings of the police force, which was already demoralized. The policemen who attended the funeral procession became restless and some of them indulged in arson, damaging private property including vehicles. The premises of the *GUJARAT SAMACHAR PRESS* and *THE INDIAN EXPRESS* and the *JANSATTA PRESS* was set on fire. Most of the city's unarmed police deserted the police, and even the mobile wireless communications system was disrupted. Details of his statement are still coming in.

Several newspaper organizations have condemned yesterday's attack on newspaper offices in Ahmedabad. The Communist Party of India has expressed its grave concern over the developments in Gujarat.

Chief Minister on Situation

BK231638 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Excerpt] In Ahmedabad, seven persons died during violent incidents in Bapunagar area. Police had to fire 85 rounds to control rioting mobs. Police and Army are patrolling the area. Police also

had to fire to disperse a violent mob in Naroda. The chief minister, Mr Madhavsinh Solanki claimed that no one was killed in the firing. Talking to newsmen he expressed the hope that normalcy will soon return to Ahmedabad.

Meanwhile, the indefinite curfew in the walled city continued for the 7th day today. Curfew has also been imposed in Sarapur and Gomtipur area. The chief minister visited the affected areas in the city this evening along with the home minister and the state police commissioner.

Mr Solanki said many people in (Baspujinagar) area had fled because of panic. He assured government's full protection to the people of the area.

Minor Incidents Reported

BK240320 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] Peace prevailed in Ahmedabad last night, barring two minor incidents of stone throwing and arson. According to the city police control, curfew will be relaxed for 2 hours each in different curfew-bound areas of the city in rotation from this morning. Meanwhile, Army and police patrolling continues throughout the city. The situation in other parts of the state, including Baroda and Broach, is also peaceful, barring a few incidents of stone throwing at state transport buses. In Unjha town in Mehsana District, police fired one round last night to disperse a mob trying to set fire to a telegraph office. One jeep each in Mahuva town in Bhavnagar District and in Gandhinagar were set on fire.

The former chief minister of Gujarat, Mr Hitendra Desai, has appealed to the people to extend their helping hand in the early restoration of peace in Ahmedabad city. In a message, he condemned the killing of a police head constable and the attack on a local daily in Ahmedabad on Monday. The editors of Rajkot daily newspapers, in a joint appeal, have requested the people of Gujarat to postpone the agitation and to extend support to the efforts for restoring peace in the state. Meanwhile, the Press Club of Rajkot and Kutch and the Saurashtra Journalists Association have condemned the attack on the journalists and daily press in Ahmedabad last Monday.

Organizations Appeal for Peace

BK240900 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] The situation in Ahmedabad is peaceful. No major incidents have been reported from any part of the city since last night. According to the police, the 2-hour curfew relaxation period in different areas of the walled city this morning passed off peacefully, barring one incident of stabbing in the Shahpur area. One person was injured in the incident. Curfew is to be relaxed for a few hours this evening in Sharadpur area. Patrolling by the police and the Army is continuing in all the localities.

Meanwhile, a number of organizations have issued appeals for restoration of peace in the city. The state units of the CPI and the CPI-M have appealed to all concerned in the state to give up agitation.

AFP on Violence

HK240057 Hong Kong AFP in English 2347 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Text] New Delhi, April 23 (AFP) — About 3,000 people fled caste riots in Ahmedabad as 16 more died in the western Indian city today, the largest number of deaths reported in a single day since the violence started two months ago, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said. Another 80 people were wounded, 15 seriously, the news agency said.

The exodus was reported from Bapunagar District, the worst hit area, where 15 of the deaths took place.

Today's casualties raised to 54 the death toll from the trouble in Gujarat State, which has been sparked by government plans to increase job and educational quotas for lower caste sections of the community.

Ahmedabad, an important textile centre and former capital of Gujarat, has been the focus of a campaign against the higher quotas by upper caste Hindus.

PTI said most of the fighting happened in clashes between upper and lower castes, including extensive arson, stabbings and stone-throwing. Two people were killed in separate incidents when police opened fire. State-owned radio had earlier reported that seven were killed in police shooting in Ahmedabad.

High-caste rioters were reported to have attacked and wounded opposition leader Indubhai Patel, local president of the Janata (People's) Party. He was said to be in hospital, but not in serious condition.

In New Delbi, Federal Interior Minister Shankarro Chavan appealed to all parties and the public to cooperate in helping restore order in Gujarat.

In a statement to parliament's lower house, he denied that the Army had taken over in Ahmedabad as some Indian news agency had reported.

Uproar, which culminated in a walkout by almost the entire opposition, marked the house's proceedings as the chair refused opposition demands for an immediate debate on the Gujarat situation.

At least two opposition parties — the pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party and Lok Dal — demanded the resignation of Gujarat Chief Minister Madhavsinh Solanki.

The state government is controlled by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party.

Federal Cabinet Meets, Reviews Power Shortage

BK230643 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Text] The federal Cabinet meeting which was held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo in Rawalpindi yesterday conducted a detailed review of the power situation and load shedding in the country and approved an action plan to control the power shortage crisis. The Cabinet also decided to abolish the duty on import of 100 to 650 kilovolt generators. The import duty on generators of more than 650 kilovolts has already been exempted. The meeting directed the Water and Power Development Authority [WAPDA] to implement electricity load shedding in an organized and scientific manner so as to minimize the negative effect on the economy. The WAPDA was told to give priority to industries and agriculture, particularly while working out the schedule for power load shedding. The Cabinet also reviewed the issue of proper irrigation water supply for the fall crop and approved several steps in this regard.

The finance and planning minister, Dr Mahbubul Haq, apprised the Cabinet at length of the present economic situation, the budget situation, and strategies and prospective priorities for public sector development programs for 1985-86. The Cabinet approved the 1985-86 development priorities and presented a number of proposals to formulate next year's development schemes in conformity with the nation's needs. The meeting also considered the allocation of separate funds for rural development program besides regular allocations. The regular funds will be utilized according to the wishes of the provincial governments. The Cabinet directed the planning and development division to hold talks with provincial governments in this regard and to formulate concrete proposals before the final decisions the national economic council are taken by.

The Cabinet also reviewed the country's internal situation and the recent disturbances in Karachi.

Karachi Situation 'Normal'; Curfew Relaxed

BK231551 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Text] A press note issued by the Karachi administration this evening says that due to relaxation in the present curfew duration, life has returned to normal and no untoward incident has been reported from the affected areas of Liaqatabad, Nazimabad, Gulbahar, Gulbarg, Johrabad, and Orangi town police station. However, an incident took place on the Allama Rashid Karabi road in the North Nazimabad police station area where some miscreants tried to set a bus on fire and injured the driver. Timely intervention by law enforcement agencies saved the bus.

The press note adds that except in Orangi town, the curfew will be relaxed in all the affected areas of the city from 0400 [2300 GMT 23 Apr] to 1800, while in Orangi town curfew will be relaxed from 0800 to 1000 and again from 1600 to 1800. Arrangements have been made to supply enough food and kerosene oil, and there is no scarcity of food and fuel in Orangi town area. Drinking water is also being supplied regularly through tankers.

The curfew was relaxed for 14 hours from 0400 to 1800 in Nazimabad, Liaqatabad, Gulbahar, Gulbarg, and Johrabad police station areas. The curfew was also relaxed for 4 hours from 0800 to 1000 and again from 1600 to 1800.

DAWN Editorial Views Karachi Violence, Inquiry

GF231337 Karachi DAWN in English 19 Apr 85 p 15

[Editorial: "Probing an Incident — and a Syndrome"]

[Text] The judicial inquiry ordered by the Sind Chief Minister should bring reassurance to Karachi's citizens about the Government's resolve to grapple with the causes of the turbulence which has cost ten lives and considerable destruction of property. Although the induction of the army patrol and the imposition of curfew in the affected areas has helped restore calm and prevented violence and disorder from spreading, it is clear that the underlying issues which led to the outburst of public anger on Monday and Tuesday need to be investigated and tackled properly.

A wise step on the part of the Government has been that the inquiry set up is to be conducted by the Chief Justice of the Sind High Court and that the terms of reference given to him are comprehensive enough to take care of all aspects of the matter. In a situation such as the one to be probed, the importance of impartiality and fairness of the investigation can hardly be overemphasised. It is equally essential that the inquiry be an open one and the media given full access to it. Not only should the press be free to report the proceedings without any undue restrictions but the report of the findings to be presented to the Government should also be made public. The people have a right to know the outcome of an inquiry which has to do with incidents in which the people felt deeply involved. The sheer intensity and dimensions of the tragic happening on Monday last and its aftermath make it absolutely necessary for the people to know all about the initial tragedy, its handling by the law-enforcing agencies and whatever is proposed to be done to avert such happenings in the future. The essential need is to take the people into confidence on all aspects of the situation, and this is not possible if, true to the familiar pattern, the report of the inquiry is consigned to the limbo of bureaucratic shelves to gather dust.

It is for the inquiry committee to determine the "causes and circumstances" leading to the events of Monday and Tuesday on the basis of evidence.

The Karachi eruption's causes, we trust, will be ferreted out and duly identified by the tribunal. The findings will, it is much to be hoped, lead to the application of corrective measures where due. Quite apart from the specific questions at issue before the tribunal, a matter of more general concern is the police's relations with the public, especially in situations where a section of the public is in an angry mood having been stirred emotionally by some unfortunate incident. A certain adversary relationship is in evidence on such occasions. This has been the familiar pattern from the time of colonial rule. We should not like on this occasion

to go further into this matter, but we think the changing of this adversary relationship is one of the basic long-term tasks of political leaders and Government administrators. As part of this broad question there is need for considering whether or not it is necessary to revamp the strategy of the police in its on-the-spot encounters with protesters.

Another issue, which has also been included in the tribunal's terms of reference, and needs careful looking into, is that of preventing the recurrence of incidents involving minibuses. Here, it would be pertinent to inquire into the operation and structure of ownership of public transport in the city. The corruption, inefficiency and misbehaviour towards the public by the transporters which characterise the functioning of a large segment of the public transport here is widely known. Yet, no serious effort has been made to introduce a degree of accountability and norms of public service in this vital sector. The public transport system has been left to devise its own ways and means to earn a fat profit. Worse still, a segment of it is thought to enjoy the protection of the police. As a result, the misbehaviour and corruption of the drivers and conductors go unchecked creating bad blood between them and the commuters. It is this which explains incidents of mob violence which occur often in the wake of road accidents involving public buses. Such violence cannot be condoned. Leaders of opinion must try to disabuse the people of the notion that violence is the answer to the transport muddle. There is, however, need to take long-term measures to ensure that the transporters not only provide the right kind of service to the people but also remain within the ambit of law. A more efficient transport system which meets the needs of the people would remove a vital factor of public unrest in the city.

Afghan Protest of Airspace Violation Rejected

BK231526 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Text] Pakistan has rejected the Kabul regime protest alleging that a Pakistan aircraft violated Afghanistan's airspace in the Barikowt region of Konar Province on the 17th of this month. The Afghan charge d'affaires in Islamabad has been asked to tell the Kabul authorities to refrain from leveling such misleading and false allegations. The Afghan charge d'affaires was told that repeated leveling of such baseless allegations reflects that the Kabul regime wants to make Pakistan responsible for events in Afghanistan.

Trial of Indian Hijackers Resumes in Lahore

BK241025 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] The trial of the Indian nationals accused of hijacking an Indian airliner into Pakistan territory was resumed in the special court in Lahore. All the five accused were present in the court. Charges framed against the accused were read out to them to which they pleaded not guilty. Evidence of first prosecution witness, co-pilot of the hijacked Indian airliner, was recorded. He was being cross-examined by the defense counsel, Khwaja Sultan Ahmed, when the hearing was adjourned till tomorrow morning. Earlier, the court accepted a prayer by the defense counsel, Mr Wasim Sajjad, that Section 149 of the Pakistan Penal Code was not a schedule offence and the accused persons cannot be tried for the said offence by the special court.

BANGLADESH

Ershad Meets PLO Chief 'Arafat, Stresses Support

BK231155 Dhaka Overseas Service in Bengali 0900 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Text] President Hussain Mohammad Ershad emphatically reiterated the full and unstinted support of Bangladesh for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian brethren for a separate homeland. The president was speaking at a luncheon held this afternoon at Banga Bhavan in honor of PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat.

The president said that Bangladesh also supports the steps taken for the maintenance of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon. He hoped that the people of Lebanon will be able to solve the problems they are now confronting.

Referring to the Gulf war, the president said that the peace initiatives made by the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] will help to restore peace between Iran and Iraq, the two warring nations. As an active member of the ICO peace committee on the Gulf war, Bangladesh will continue to extend all possible help for an honorable solution of this conflict.

On Namibia, the president said he believes that the heroic freedom fighters of that country under the leadership of the South-West African People's Organization will be able to gain their goal of independence without further delay.

Referring to the South Asian Regional Cooperation, he said that this forum will open a new horizon of cooperation and understanding in South Asia and will contribute to the achievement of peace and prosperity in the region.

The president said that Bangladesh is making arduous efforts for the development and revitalization of its economy through several reforms. He hoped that through united efforts, the nation will succeed in fulfilling this difficult and challenging task.

In his reply, PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat extended his deep gratitude for the relentless support of Bangladesh for the just struggle of the Palestinian brethren. He said the PLO highly appreciates the constructive cooperation of Dhaka and the PLO in different forums, including the Nonaligned Movement. He also recalled the role of Bangladesh and other members of the IOC peace committee to end the Gulf war.

'Arafat firmly believed that the Palestinians will finally emerge victorious in their struggle to attain their inalienable rights, including a separate homeland of their own.

Among others attending the luncheon were former President Assanuddin Chowdhury, two deputy chief martial law administrators, ministers, diplomats, editors of national dailies and news agencies, and high ranking military and civil officials.

Earlier in the morning, the PLO chief had a meeting with President Ershad in Banga Bhavan. The 45-minute long meeting was held in a very cordial atmosphere.

Later, a spokesman of Banga Bhavan told newsmen that the two leaders reviewed the current situation in the Islamic world, especially in the Gulf war. Foreign Secretary Faruq Ahmed Chowdhury, PLO representative in Dhaka Ahmad Abd al-Razzaq as-Salman, PLO representative in Delhi Shaykh Khalid al-Shaykh, and PLO representative in Iraq 'Azzam al-Ahmad also attended the meeting.

Earlier, the PLO chief laid a wreath at the national martyrs memorial in Savar.

NEPAL

British Minister Raison Leaves Katmandu 23 April

BK231529 Katmandu External Service in English 1445 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Text] The British minister for overseas development and minister of state in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Timothy Raison, said the British assistance to Nepal would be at a higher level in the next British fiscal year. Mr Raison before leaving for home today (?at the end of) a week-long visit to Nepal, said at an airport press conference that in the current fiscal year Nepal is receiving 9 million pounds compared to 7 million pounds in the preceding year. He said he visited several British-aided projects in Katmandu as well as eastern Nepal and that he was satisfied with the progress. The British official was seen off at the airport by the minister of state for tourism, labor and social welfare, Shree Prashad Budhathoki.

SRI LANKA

Jayewardene Assures Security in Eastern Province

BK231203 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Text] President Jayewardene has assured the people that all possible measures will be taken with additional security activities to bring back the situation in the Eastern Province to normal. The assurance of the president was announced to the home affairs minister, K.W. Devanayagam, and the regional development ministers, C. Rajadurai, when they met the president at the president's house in Colombo this morning. The two ministers explained in detail the prevailing situation and difficulties and the problems of the people in the Eastern Province and requested the president to bring back the situation to normal as early as possible. Mr Lalith Athulathmudali was also present at the meeting.

Meanwhile, Mr Devanagam told SLB [Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation] that the security measures alone will bring the situation back to normal and ensure the relationship between the two communities which existed for centuries. The security measures will solve the problem at the moment as an immediate step, because both the communities are now living in the Eastern Province in fear. Minister Rajadurai said that he visited some areas in the Batticaloa District yesterday and made every attempt to calm both the communities.

Hameed Stresses Muslim-Tamil Peace, Understanding

BK221407 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 22 Apr 85

[Excerpt] The minister of foreign affairs, Shahul Hameed, who met Muslim leaders in Colombo to review the present situation in the Eastern Province, said that the Muslims and Tamils have no conflict with each other. Muslims and Tamils, particularly in the Eastern Province, have lived peacefully together for centuries. He said that it was unfortunate that this age-old unity should be damaged by the terrorists.

Mr Hameed stated that the terrorists are trying desperately to drive a wedge between the Muslims and Tamils and to promote confrontation between the two communities. They are doing this to win the support and sympathy of the Tamil people in the Eastern Province.

The foreign minister noted that the damage done by the terrorists to innocent Muslims was unimaginable. He said their houses have been burned, crops taken away forcibly, and goods looted because they refused to give material support to the terrorists.

Mr Hameed stressed that a great responsibility has been cast on the political leadership of the Tamil and Muslim in the Eastern Province in this hour of need in restoring peace and understanding between the two communities. The representatives of Muslims in the Eastern Province explained fully the sufferings they had undergone recently. He said the terrorists demanded ransom immediately or in installment and if payment was refused or attempts were made to inform the authorities the result was disaster for innocent Muslims.

The foreign minister emphasized that the government will protect all innocent citizens in this country against the acts of terrorists. He said it is the duty of the government to ensure that every citizen, irrespective of caste, color, or creed, lives without fear or intimidation.

Renewed Tamil-Muslim Clashes Erupt in East

BK241056 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] There have been renewed clashes between Muslim and Tamil residents in the Eastern Province. Official sources said police clamped a curfew in the area and ordered residents to stay indoors in an attempt to curb the fresh outbreak of violence. Home Minister K.W. Devanayagam said that violence erupted in Muslim dominated Kattankudi and an adjoining village as Tamil holding were set on fire. A special task force was summoned after the trouble began and were able to bring the situation under control. Government is making every effort to assist those rendered homeless.

Meanwhile, National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said that according to official estimates, 28 people had died since Tamil-Muslim clashes started 2 weeks ago.

AFP on Renewed Violence

HK230522 Hong Kong AFP in English 0453 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Text] Colombo, April 23 (AFP) — Muslims set Tamil homes ablaze yesterday, officials said here today as they reported further sectarian violence in eastern Sri Lanka which has already claimed around 50 lives according to unofficial reports.

Home Minister Bill Devanayagam told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that violence erupted in Muslim-dominated Kattankudi and an adjoining village as Tamil homes were set on fire.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali confirmed that clashes had broken out, but was unable immediately to provide details about damage or any casualties.

Mr Athulathmudali said that 28 people had died since Tamil-Muslim clashes started two weeks ago, according to official estimates. However, as more bodies are found, unofficial reports put the toll at around 50.

Officials reported from the eastern area that some Tamils fled yesterday to the east coast city of Batticaloa about 10 kilometres (six miles) away. Security sources told AFP that after arson attacks started, the thinly stretched police force ordered people to remain indoors.

The clashes started after three Muslims were shot dead by militant Tamil separatists in northwestern Mannar more than two weeks ago. The militants are campaigning for a separate state in the north and east of Sri Lanka.

Mr Devanayagam and another Tamil Cabinet colleague — Chelliah Rajadurai, minister for Regional Development — yesterday gave President Junius Jayewardene their preliminary assessment of the situation following a visit to the troubled area.

The home minister told AFP that they stressed the need to get the area back to normal as quickly as possible.

It is currently estimated that nearly 12,000 people have been made homeless in the violence and that about 800 homes and shops have been destroyed or damaged.

Khamene'i Interviewed on Tehran Demonstrations
LD231531 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Text] Following the demonstrations over the past few days against nonobservance of the Islamic dress code and the propagation of prostitution and vices, President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i explained in an interview today his views about the colonialist Western policies on the propagation of prostitution and corruption in our country and the demonstrations by various people against these conspiracies, to which we draw your attention:

[Begin recording] [Interviewer] [Sentence indistinct]

[Khamene'i] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We have repeatedly talked about this matter in the past, and we shall comment on this matter again. However, before expressing my views, I must inform all the people, all my sisters and brothers, that these demonstrations should not take place any more from today onward. The demonstrations staged in Tehran during the past few days and to which you referred — and perhaps there have been similar demonstrations in a number of other cities — against the nonobservance of Islamic dress or laxity toward this matter and prostitution — and I have heard that in some cities there are plans for the staging of such demonstrations — now, all this is enough. From today onward there should be no further demonstrations. What has already been done is sufficient.

However, concerning this whole issue there are two things that I should refer to side by side. The first issue is that one of the colonialist policies of the West in our country has been the propagation of prostitution and immorality. No one should have any doubt concerning this matter. They imagined that by this means they could divert our people, especially the young generation whether boys or girls, from revolutionary zeal, from revolutionary commitment, from work for reconstruction and get them preoccupied with sexual issues, with prostitution, immorality, and vices and such. Of course, their thesis is correct. Their understanding is correct that if such issues are spread among the people, instead of spending their time on work, activity, and reconstruction, they will spend their time on make-up, clothes, other such activities, the satisfaction of carnal desires, and so on. Under such circumstances, the future of such a country would be very bad and very bitter and that nation would be finished — especially a nation like ours which is in the process of reconstruction and when we are in need of comprehensive and all-out efforts by our people, especially the young generation, for reconstruction. This is what they are trying to do in our country.

We have information that all this deliberate flaunting of immorality, of the nonobservance of Islamic dress, or laxity in the observance of Islamic dress and the wearing of inappropriate clothes, and imitating the kind of people who are regarded as deviants from a sexual and carnal point of view throughout the world, is currently being propagated in Iran by world politics. We know this and have information concerning it. We even know that the clothes worn by some of our ignorant youths, whom I do not wish to mention, are sent by stores affiliated with the minigroups and sold at low prices.

At a time when other types of clothes are not cheap, under the present conditions in our country, these clothes were sold at low prices by certain stores. Why do they do so? Is it not because of the fact that they wish to keep youth, especially educated youth, amused with such mean and unworthy issues that are far removed from revolutionary issues? All the people should know these things. It is natural that the people cannot remain indifferent concerning these issues.

Today we have hundreds of thousands, maybe millions, of our young people active in the battlefields and they are struggling against world arrogance. How many of them are in the battlefronts? How many of them are in the reconstruction crusade? How many of them are in the literacy movement? How many of them are in other organizations and departments who are working for the revolution and for the people? Well, all of them are young people. When families know that their youths are active in the mobilization units, in the fronts, in the Armed Forces, in the Guards Corps, and in dangerous organizations, on the borders and in the deserts — who know no winter and no summer, who may not even have the addresses of their families [as heard] — when the people see their youths are active under such conditions, if they see that another group of youths come to Vali-e 'Asr Street or elsewhere, wear strange clothes that are manifestations of Western culture and the cultural domination of the West, and the political domination of our enemies, it is natural that our people will not tolerate this and will not accept this. We do not accept it and do not like it either. The reaction of the people against such phenomena is quite natural. This is the first of the two issues that I said I would refer to.

The second issue is this: It is clear that the people have been aroused and a number of enthusiastic and highly motivated people have poured onto the streets to stage demonstrations and to chant slogans against such deeds. So far it is quite right. However, our enemies will try to make use of even such events. How do they do it? They will enter the ranks of these Hezbollahi and motivated groups, and will engage in offences and in violence in their name. They attack a woman who is walking in the streets and who is wearing a scarf. They deal harshly and roughly with a young man whose hair may be a little too long. They do so under the pretext that they are fighting against immorality and prostitution and are preventing vices. This is the danger.

The hostile, antagonistic, and ill-intentioned individuals join these Hezbollahi groups and suddenly you see that a number of them attack the surgery of a lady doctor and say: What is going on here? They start insulting the lady doctor and the patients. Or in a cafe, when a number of people are sitting and having tea, suddenly a few of these individuals enter and start dragging people away and mistreating them.

No, such deeds are not acceptabe to us; and we believe that such deeds are not the work of our Hezbollahis. Such deeds are perpetrated by atheistic groups. Of course, it is possible for a number of Hezbollahi individuals to be aroused and to become prey to emotions and mistakenly engage in acts of violence. You see, this is the second issue.

While we accept and understand and sympathize with the people in their reaction against the nonobservance of Islamic dress,

against prostitution, immorality, and laxity in dress, at the same time we will never accept certain excesses such as I have mentioned. Unfortunately, there have been some such excesses and we are certain that they have been carried out by hostile minigroups, by ill-intentioned people, and by those who wish to distort the face of the Islamic Republic, and especially the face of the Hezbollahis, in the eyes of the public. This is why in my Friday sermon I said that the people should pay special attention and the Hezbollahis should pay attention that certain individuals do not infiltrate their ranks.

Now, let me emphasize, these demonstrations, whatever they were and whatever form they took, are enough for the past few days and they should not be continued any more. Of course, if you see that such acts are being repeated, if they get on and get off [as heard] and repeat such acts, you should know that he is not a member of Hezbollah, because we are forbidding such acts and these acts should not be repeated.

Now it is the turn of government officials and the judiciary to act. The prosecutor's office, the Ministry of the Interior, and other relevant officials should act. They should prosecute those who openly indulge in immorality, in indecency and in acts contrary to public chastity. They should deal with them in the form that has been set out in the circulars issued by the prosecutor's office, by the Ministry of the Interior, or the prime minister's office. They should act exactly as has been laid down; and from now on we do not expect anything further from the public and from the demonstrating groups. They should not interfere any more because from now on the government has been entrusted with the duty to act.

Of course, you should bear in mind that when I say that the people should no longer engage in demonstrations in the streets, I am only referring to demonstrations related to prostitution and immorality. If the political minigroups try again to engage in disturbances, to incite the people under various guises, if they come to the streets and become the source of disturbance to the public, under such conditions the Hezbollahi groups will come and should come and should confront them. There is no doubt that if the minigroups wish to engage in political activities, if they wish to come to the streets and annoy the public, under such circumstances the Hezbollahi groups will come to the streets and should come. That is not what I am discussing now. [end recording]

Interior Ministry Statement

GF240620 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] Following an interview by President Khamene'i concerning decisive treatment of various facets of corruption and public immorality and the need for maintaining public order and calm, during which he asked for legal measures by responsible organizations, the Interior Ministry announced in a statement that those who fail to pay attention to public morality and resort to vice, corruption, and immorality will be dealt with decisively.

According to this statement, law enforcement agencies are supposed to strictly control all public places and arrest offenders and hand them over to judicial authorities. The responsibility to fight vice and acts contrary to public morality belongs to the respective authorities and the Hezbollahi ummah must report such instances to law enforcement agencies immediately so that the offenders can be arrested. They should refrain from any direct action. Naturally, any disorders, gatherings, marches, or actions against others by irresponsible people are contrary to the law and law enforcement agencies are to take action in such cases, arrest the offenders, and hand them over to judicial authorities.

Guards Day Marches Planned in Tehran 24 April

GF230528 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Imam Hoseyn, peace be upon him and all his scion, and Guards Day, the mechanized and armored forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and motorized forces of the Islamic Revolution committees will participate in a march in Tehran's avenues.

Units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Ashab-e Badr also will participate.

Special ceremonies will also be held today at Imam Hoseyn Square at 1530 [1200 GMT] with the participation of Muslim and martyr-nurturing people.

According to our reporter, special traffic regulations issued by the traffic department will go into effect in all streets around Imam Hoseyn Square as of 1200 today.

Joint Staff Command Issues Communique No 2,082

LD231724 Tehran IRNA in English 1716 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Text] Tehran, April 23, IRNA — Islamic combatants of Iran, over the past 24 hours, suppressed the activities of Iraqi patrol units in the northern fronts, seizing enemy equipment.

Joint Staff Command Communique No 2082 said Tuesday all Iraqi engineering and fortificaction activities were subjected to the heavy fire of the Islamic combatants, as a result of which the enemy sustained some damages and losses.

In the central front of Ilam and Bakhtaran, exchange of fire continued, being more intense in Qasr-e Shirin and Naft-e Shah.

Iraqi motorised columns in the Qasr-e Shirin front received the heaviest concentration of fire, which disturbed their movement and a number of casualties and some losses were inflicted upon them.

In the Arvand River front in the south, the Islamic forces opened fire on the Iraqi positions, halting their engineering activities, destroying one loader, one mortar launcher and more than five heavy and light weaponry positions.

Statement Denies Planning Chemical Weapons Use

LD231732 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Text] In view of the contents of the U.S. Zionist media regarding Iran's step toward moving its chemical weapons to the warfronts and using such weapons, the War Publicity Headquarters of the Supreme Defense Council declared in a statement:

The publication of such reports are aimed at implementing a plot worked out by U.S. imperialism to support the Iraqi regime against Islamic Iran; and by disseminating such reports the United States intends to reduce the hideousness and obscenity of Iraq's actions whose repeated chemical attacks violate international laws, and thereby divert and confuse world public opinion mobilized against the Baghdad regime for its use of chemical weapons.

In the statement, the War Publicity Headquarters added: The Islamic Republic of Iran, while condemning the use of every type of chemical weapon and considering its own adherence to the principles and laws of war, hopes that international endeavors will succeed in warning the war-mongering Iraqi regime against using chemical weapons and convince the Baghdad rulers to observe laws that are respected by other world peoples.

The statement of the War Publicity Headquarters also expressed the hope that the world mass media with responsibility and total alertness will beware of U.S. propaganda strategies against Islamic Iran and will thereby safeguard the independence of their news vis-a-vis the wave of lying propaganda and the spurious reports manufactured by the United States.

France Declines Comment on Chemical Arms Victims

LD232216 Tehran IRNA in English 1045 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Text] Paris, April 23, IRNA — French doctors have been instructed not to give any comment on the nature of injuries of victims of chemical weapons hospitalised in French hospitals. The head of the burns treatment ward of Paris' Saint Antoine Hospital, Professor Baux, contacted by IRNA Monday, while declining to comment on the reason for the martyrdom of Iranian troops afflicted by chemical weapons, said that French authorities have instructed him not to grant any interview on Iranians afflicted by chemical weapons hospitalised in French hospitals.

It seems that this is a general policy and the press departments of French hospitals and also the French Ministries of Defense and Social Affairs, when contacted by IRNA correspondent who inquired about the cause of the death of Iranian forces, only said that their death was caused by inhaling poisonous substances.

However, Professor Baux told IRNA that information in this respect had been put at the disposal of the press department of the hospital.

Informed sources are of the opinion that since the French Government is trying to avoid taking any stance on the Iraqi usage of chemical weapons, it has been trying to play down the issue and prevent any news in this respect from leaking out.

If the French doctors, like other European doctors, openly comment on the reason for the death of the Iranian forces, then the French Government which is a signatory of the 1925 Geneva Protocol, will find it difficult to justify its failure to condemn the Iraqi regime for having deployed the weapons.

The French press have so far failed to report on the martyrdom of two Iranian combatants afflicted by toxic chemicals who died last Thursday because of severe injuries.

48 Iraqi POW's To Be 'Unilaterally' Repatriated

LD231723 Tehrna IRNA in English 1719 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Text] Tehran, April 23, IRNA — The Islamic Republic is to unilaterally free a group of 48 disabled Iraqi prisoners of war, according to the Iranian Foreign Ministry here today.

The ministry said that on Monday the managing director of the Turkish Red Crescent Society had arrived here heading a Turkish delegation to take the preliminary arrangements for the return home of the Iraqi POW's. The Turksh delegation is to meet with the group of the Iraqi POW's here on Wednesday.

The Iraqi POW's are to be flown home via Ankara this week.

Lebanese Shi'ite Leader Criticizes United Nations

LD240817 Tehran IRNA in English 0626 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] Tehran, April 24, IRNA — Vice-speaker of the Supreme Assembly of the Shi'ite Muslims of Lebanon, Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din criticised the United Nations and the U.N. Security Council for having deliberately winked at the deployment of chemical weapons against Iran's Muslim combatants by the Iraqi Government.

In an interview with IRNA Tuesday, he said the reservation of the United Nations and of other international bodies from explicitly condemning the Baghdad government for such violations of international conventions is a vivid proof that such international bodies have been created principally for safeguarding the interests of the big powers.

He said that immediately after the Security Council had issued a vague resolution in relation with the issue without condemning Iraq, the Supreme Assembly of the Shi'ite Muslims of Lebanon condemned the Security Council for its meaningless resolution.

Elsewhere speaking in the same interview, the official of the Supreme Assembly noted that the Islamic Revolution in Iran had left its obvious effects on Lebanon and that it had inspired the Lebanese Muslims to a more determined fighting with the Zionists.

Speaking on the situation in Lebanon he said the Shi'ite Muslims of Lebanon believe that engaging in negotiation with the Zionists is not to the best interests of the Muslim Arabs and Palestinians. He added that the Lebanese people have long since been convinced that once they should make any concession to the Zionist government, the latter will respond by brutal acts upon Muslims.

The stand of the Islamic Republic of Iran and of Syria and Libya, will be in the best interest of the people of Palestine and the Arabs, he said.

Tudeh Party, Feda'iyan-e Khalq Issue Statement
LD222007 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 20 Apr 85

["Joint statement" by the Central Committee of the Tudeh Party of Iran and the Central Committee of the Organization of Feda'iyan-e Khalq Iran, the Majority Wing, issued on 20 April]

[Text] Dear compatriots: The agents of the bloody and warmongering Islamic Republic regime have shed the blood of the residents of 13th Aban District, located in southern Tehran, for having protested the continuation of the war. This crime, however, fanned the flame of the legitimate wrath and protest of the people. As a result, the demonstrations gained momentum, with the bereaved people turning the entire district into a scene of demonstrations and protests against the war and against this oppressive regime.

During these demonstrations, the regime's agents killed a number of people who were demanding peace, while injuring a great many others.

The regime's papers reported the arrest of hundreds of Tudeh Party and Feda'i members as well as Mojahedin. During these demonstrations, the hands of the criminal rulers of the Islamic Republic shed the blood of two Feda'iyan-e Khalq.

Struggling compatriots, the devastating war between Iran and Iraq has reached a new phase causing ever more deaths and destruction. In Tehran, Borujerd, Dezful, and other cities, the people are staging demonstrations against the war and in favor of peace. The legitimate protests by the masses, who have become fed up with the war, are daily gaining momentum. In the midst of all these, the rulers of the Islamic Republic, true to the normal practice of reactionaries and dictatorships, bring their ire down on the heads of the defenseless people.

The regime's oppression continues to threaten the people's enslaved offspring with death. Following your increasing and rightful protests against the war and bombings, the reactionary regime's agents launched an assault on Evin Prison, subjected the prisoners to the most brutal attacks, and injured and maimed a great many. The families of these prisoners have gone to Qom to protest. However, what they received instead of justice was insult and uncouth treatment by the regime's agents.

The Tudeh Party of Iran and the Majority Wing of Fada'iyan-e Khalq Iran once again strongly, bitterly and with disgust condemn these crimes committed by the regime, while also condemning its antipopular, antinational, and warmongering policy. We call on all the national and democratic forces in Iran to challenge, resist, and protest it.

Dear compatriots, make use of any suitable opportunity and support the demonstrations staged against the war. Force the reactionary and dictatorial ruling regime to submit to the will of the people. The Islamic Republic rulers have no reservation in burning down your very existence in order to carry out their antinational and criminal policies. To (?stop) the destructive war calamity you must escalate protest demonstrations and expand your participation in the struggle for peace.

Let us rise and end these [words indistinct] shameless crimes by the ruling reactionary regime.

Long live peace; victory to the united and organized struggle of the peace- and freedom-loving Iranian people protesting the reactionary and dictatorial ruling circle.

[Signed] The Central Committee of the Tudeh Party of Iran; the Central Committee of the Majority Wing of Fada'iyan-e Khalq Iran organization 13 April 1985.